

Students are crying for a change—and the Governments raise the bogey of 'Law and Order'

In recent months when the whole of the country is being terribly shaken by spontaneous student movements, surging up in sporadic outbursts with deep-seated boiling discontent with a view to putting an end to all the long-standing maladies rampant in the entire field of education, there seems to be going on a friendly competition among the different bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties, of course not for mending the problems of the students but as to how best these outbursts can be crushed. The Prime minister, Mr. Morarji Desai instead of sympathetically probing deep into the genuine causes spurring up this resentment, showed up himself as a 'strong man' in defence of 'law and order'. On the floor of the parliament he brandished the threat that if the students try to find out the solutions of their problems in the path of movement, they will be severely dealt with by the Government and if need be, the institutions involved will immediately be closed. He was telling this close on the heels of the different State Governments' unleashing a reign of terror and closing down thirty-one universities out of a total of almost 150 throughout the country—an ingenious cure no doubt!

Governments of different states led by different parties, principally by the Party of the Prime Minister do not seem to lag behind one another in this anti-movement tirade. But the wonder of wonders is that the CPI(M) led 'Left front' Government of West Bengal who, while still waving the red banner is found singing in chorus with all these lackies of the bourgeoisie. Here the CPI(M) and others, by utilising the wide-spread delusion prevailing among the people due to their clichés and slogans are continuously providing arguments in their bid to create a moral sanction against any possible movement on one hand, and, on the other, are crushing these movements by sending police within the educational institutions quite frequently. It is perhaps because of this non-left anti-movement attitude of the Government that it took not much time and very little trouble for the student organisations of these so-called left parties to reach a mutual agreement, along with those of the Congress and the Janata on 10th March in a joint meeting of all the student organisations, convened by the higher education minister of

W. B. Mr. Sambhu Ghosh, declaring that student unrest, as the present "Left-front" Government calls it, must be resisted at an implicit understanding that the educational institutions are to be visited by the benevolent police troops with the ostensible purpose of bringing 'law and order' by breaking the heads of those audacious among the students. But Mr. Subhash Chakrabarty, general secretary S. F. I., the student wing of the CPI(M) has perhaps surpassed all in his arrogant assertion that not only the police but even large contingent of military troops may be called within the university campus if need be and thereby has left even the Janata Prime Minister, far behind in this race of loyalty to bourgeois 'law and order'.

But with having a modicum of pro-people attitude, demanded of any party feeling itself responsible to the cause of the people, these parties could in no way remain blind to these grievances of the students; rather, at the very outset they would have easily realised that this resentment which cannot but release itself today here and there in spontaneous

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Elaborate Rigging makes Panchayat Election In West Bengal A Farce and Poses A Serious Threat to Democratic Movement of the Country

[Text of the statement released by Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta in a Press Conference held on 13th June—Ed. P. Era.]

The manner in which the CPI (M) leadership resorted to rank corruption, opportunism and diverse methods of rigging in order to ensure victory in the Panchayat elections just concluded, has not only reduced the slogan of 'free and fair election' to a farce, it has also posed a serious threat to democratic atmosphere and left and democratic movement itself. There were serious attacks on parties in the opposition and our Party in particular, workers and organisers were threatened with dire consequences, wine and money were liberally distributed among the poor peasants, people were tempted with prospects of government relief, wheat and money available under the scheme of "Food for Work", were unscrupulously made use of in order to influence poll results to the best advantage of CPI(M). Application forms for unemployment allowance and appointment of primary teachers were widely distributed in the villages before the elections, and the electorate was even threatened to the effect that if the party in the government was not voted to power, the panchayats would not receive any finance. These apart, the wide-spread rigging that took place in this election, both at the time of polling and counting of votes, is mainly of the following character:

1) In general, polling was made very slow everywhere from 7 A. M. to 3 P. M. But almost everywhere in West Bengal, Presiding Officers issued Voters' slip in advance to CPI(M) workers who used them from after 3 P. M. till beyond midnight for the purpose of false voting by mobilising outsiders in large numbers. False voting, in this manner, continued in some places till next morning, while in several other places, till the morning of 6th June. This is an incident which can surely claim novelty in the history of election

so far. Needless to mention, that the architect of this unusual rigging was the CPI(M) itself. This was undoubtedly the most important and significant happening of this election, which enabled the CPI(M) to steer the poll results successfully to its favour.

2) Again, at particular places it was announced after 3 P. M. that there would be no more polling, although hundreds of people stood waiting in long queues. Slips were also refused when the voters asked for them.

3) Voters supporting parties in the opposition, were, at some places, given three ballot papers of the same tier, instead of ballot papers for all the three tiers; at some other places ballot papers for only two out of the three tiers were issued, while at many other centres ballot papers meant for a particular tier were given for some other tier. For example, ballot papers meant for the Gram Panchayats were issued against the Zilla Parishad tier. Again, there were cases where portions of the ballot papers indicating the names and symbols of our candidates were torn out before issuing them to the voters.

(4) Poll results were rigged even at the time of counting of votes. Votes in favour of our candidates were forcibly and unjustly declared invalid; even protests in writing went unheeded.

(5) There have been allegations of rigging also in case of final tabulations, since there was no arrangement for supplying certified copies of results achieved at the different booths at the Panchayat Samity and Zilla Parishad tiers.

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Not mere emotion but what the students need are clear

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agitation, has been smouldering for a long time centring round many of the burning problems. Serious questions would then be agitating in the minds of these parties in the office today as to how to solve this problem. Have they ever taken any trouble at all to look into the utterly wretched plight to which the entire education system has been reduced today? What is the actual state of affairs in the education system today?

The slogan of universal education, raised by the national leaders during the days of the anti-imperialist struggle, has virtually been dwindled to a mere farce, when the entire education system is continuously being, in a most calculated manner, more and more restricted and becoming selective, resulting in gradual shutting down of all the doors of education one after another on the face of the students in order to minimise the number of educated unemployed. Scientific, secular and democratic education still remains a far cry, while the present one has motivatedly been turned into a morass of propagating religious values, out and out inimical to the growth and development of a bent of mind, based on logic and scientific reasoning. Autonomy of education, is now virtually at the mercy of the government and the capitalist state. Without adequate library, laboratory and eligible staff, the academic atmosphere has been reduced to a veritable chaos, examination system in complete disarray, being a regularly irregular affair and even if held after much difficulty and trouble, the answer papers, more often than not, find their due place, of course much before the results are out, as paper packets for confectionery materials. This apart, the students are often compelled to fall prey to the endless whims and caprices of the authority, now deciding a course to be of 10+2+2, then again to be of 10+2+3 and again 8+4+3 and

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so on and so forth which it is better to be undiscussed. Here decisions are taken—decisions regarding the vital issues in the field of education, but astonishingly enough, not even a minimum of willingness, not to speak of any attempt at all on the part of the government, is found to make any discussion or consultation with the students, teachers, educationists and others involved. Nay, when the students with all these problems voice their genuine protest, hue and cry is raised over the so-called 'disruption of law and order' and the next step—police interference! Would you call all these 'peace'? Is not there enough ground in such an education system to breed grievance and resentment among the students against this outworn system? But why all these parties develop obsession about any and every kind of disorder? Let alone the communists, have not even the bourgeois humanists like Romain Rolland cried out in bold defiance against the old out-moded system: where order is injustice disorder is the beginning of justice? What does peace signify in such a situation? Does it not mean advocating for this chaos-discredited crisis-ridden education system or here peace positively means ensuring free scope for movement to put an end to all these maladies? The Congress governments in the past were sincerely committed to the former, let the people at large and the student community in particular listen to as to what peace they would like to defend—peace of the cemetery where anarchy and injustice will reign supreme with all the voices of protest gagged at the threat of lathis and bullets or peace of the civilisation marching ahead bit by bit with militant struggles of the toiling millions against what is false and unjust!

True, all the funda-

mental burning problems prevailing in the lives of the people today are being generated from the capitalist, socio-economic setup of our country and the fundamental problems in the sphere of education are no exception to this rule. But does it at all mean that we will have to remain mere idle spectators with having nothing to do till this capitalist system is overthrown? Needless to say, the answer is a big negative. Many things, though not of fundamental nature, but of reformative nature, can be done by any government if it possesses a minimum of pro-people attitude. And it is quite natural that if the students find themselves pitted against a system, based on injustice and if they find their legitimate demands ignored by a government for a long time, there is nothing wrong on their part to be restive for a change.

But here we feel it our bounden duty to raise some pertinent questions without properly and deeply considering which these movements, however much bloodshed and life sacrifices be made to wage them, will never gain correct orientation and right direction. The first question which deserves serious consideration by each and everybody really eager for a change, is, what is the expected education system we are fighting for by replacing this time-worn one? We do not know whether those engaged in the recent movements have thought over it. But, we feel that all the various slogans, raised in the recent movement, should be concentrated on one specific slogan, i.e. democratisation of education. Which means the educational system to be democratic both in form and content. It means, first, under no pretext the scope of education can be restricted. Every Indian people, irrespective of

caste, creed and religion or economic status must be provided with wide opportunity and equal scope for education. Secondly, it means, introduction of a scientific secular education system which will consistently be aiming at instilling into the minds of the students scientific attitude towards life based on logic and reasoning free from all sorts of religious and superstitious beliefs and variants of obscurantist ideas. It also means in particular a modern and well-balanced syllabus and an examination system to test the merit but not to deceive them.

Thirdly it means, an education system completely free from the tutelage of the capitalist state and the government so that the nefarious game of the bourgeoisie to pattern the whole of the education system so as to serve its class design, can not succeed in the face of the conscious and organised battle of the people.

We cannot but remember here that it is only our beloved leader, teacher, guide and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the day, **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** who showed the people that in a class divided capitalist society like ours, the education system, being the superstructure of this given socio-economic capitalist structure, must serve the interest of the capitalist class. But it will be the task of the revolutionaries to try their level best for democratising the entire education system so that the people can be inspired in legitimate battles against injustice and fascist design of regimentation. And this system of education, conforming to the democratic principles of life, can alone fight back the trend of fascisation in culture which the capitalist class has long been trying to create by obstructing the cult of scientific reasoning and allowing the uninterrupted admittance

of spiritualism allied with the technical aspect of science as the great leader of the proletariat, **Comrade Shibdas Ghosh** showed long before. In student movement none—neither the "leftists" nor the rightists—but only the AIDSO which has consistently been fighting for the introduction of a scientific, secular and democratic education system. So it is the AIDSO which alone can provide the students with a correct and scientific approach toward the problems in the field of education.

Lastly, to one most vital question we cannot but draw the serious attention of our student friends who are involved in the recent movements. Has not our country witnessed mighty surge of movements over and over again? Have not the people of our country times without number plunged themselves into waves of tumultuous outbursts without caring at all to embrace the glorious martyrdom at the altar of the movement for emancipation? But why the exploitative capitalist system still remains today and is consolidating itself more and more with the days passing? This is really a very important question which cannot but be seriously pondered over. Otherwise, in future too, bloodshed and life sacrifices will not perhaps be lacking but if the mistakes and weaknesses for which all the previous movements failed to reach their logical culmination are not clarified and rectified, the question of emancipation will ever remain a distant dream. The students along with the people will continue to be deceived either by this bourgeois or petty-bourgeois party or that, all standing in defence of the vested interests. We cannot but recall here the immortal teachings of

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.
Comrade Ghosh has

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POWER CRISIS—How the 'Left Front' Government tackles it

The CPI(M) led 'Left Front' government has come down heavily on non-CITU unions by dismissing one and transferring nineteen workers in Santaldih Power Plant. A vast army of armed police under a senior and notorious police officer keep the plant workers under tight cordoning. A trusted bureaucrat flies to and fro to oversee the whole arrangement. Among all the problems one that demanded immediate attention was the acute power crisis which has been posing a constant threat to the health of the state's economy, over a considerable period of time. But this is the way the West Bengal government tries to tackle the problem. It has declared war against the plant workers but not against the vicious circle of vested interest.

The condition is no better in agriculture. What with the grim agricultural prospects in this state, power cut is adding trouble by affecting specially, Boro-pady cultivation. About 14000, power driven tubewells and river-lift pumps in the state, run not more than six to seven hours a day, and at night too with frequent interruptions to its credit.

The miseries accumulated in civic life, due to load-shedding are in one, word, manifold. With a high degree of humility this summer, loadshedding is draining the vitality from the life of the people. Suffocation leading to illness, disturbances in domestic routines including those of rest and studies—these are but a few upsets in daily life. Even at hospitals, operations are being withheld and X-Ray plates being cancelled because of interruption through load-shedding. Condition at offices is simply inhuman. Centres of communication starting with newspaper offices, and including radio stations, telephone exchanges etc. are not exempted. Pumping stations, garages, film laboratories, photo and cinema studios face a problem, similar to the industrial units, which inevitably leaves a large section of workers out of work either temporarily or permanently. And all these frequent load-shedding, several times a day, have nothing like a schedule or planning.

Power crisis having assumed such a magnitude the expectation of the common people was that the Left Front Government would look into the pros and cons of the matter and take steps accordingly in an Emergency basis. While the Congress ministry failed miserably in the past, this year, during the regime of the 'Left Front' Government the situation has no doubt worsened further.

Among the so-called achievements in this field what the government is loud in proclaiming, is the fact that it has appealed to the Central Government for importing some gas turbines. Secondly, it has decided to back the Titagarh Project under the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC), a British concern with an amount of Rs. 100 crores, in an attempt to increase power production. We cannot help noting, that inspite of the 'Left Front' Governments' election pledge that it would not patronize foreign monopoly capital, it has at present decided to offer even financial aid and assistance to the project of the CESC, a British led monopoly concern, as one of the means to lessen power shortage.

Thirdly, the 'Left Front' Government has decided to raise considerably the minimum limit of the electric bill to be paid by the consumers and is thus transferring the burden of corruption and inefficiency onto the shoulders of the common people. It

thus gives an impetus to the bureaucracy of the West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB) to carry on merrily with financial mismanagements and inefficiency. And when the principal beneficiaries of electricity supplied by the government are the capitalist both in the rural and urban sector the burden of the cost is being transferred by the 'Left Front' Government onto the shoulder of common people as did the previous governments in the past.

Our contention is not that all the problems associated with power supply accumulated over the years can be solved over night. Nor do we mean that when the problems which are more the creations of a vicious chain of vested interest with the combination of bureaucracy, contractors and highups in the ruling parties than due to any natural failings, the solutions will be a smooth affairs by periodic exhortations and expressions of pious wishes. It requires courage and boldness of the parties in the power and particularly of the minister-in-charge who in the present case is no less a person than Sri Jyoti Basu, a politbureau member of CPI(M). But for achieving any degree of success in this matter what is essential is to bring the workers and the people at large into confidence and organise strong public opinion and sanction for taking strong steps against the corrupt officials and vested interest. Instead of this, we find the present government is treading in the same path of the previous governments by making the workers, the scapegoat and inciting public opinion against them. They have accused the workers of sabotaging the power supply in order to discredit the 'Left Front' Government. It is noteworthy here that in Kerala the electricity workers are conducting struggles under the leadership of CITU, the Trade Union wing of CPI(M). The Kerala

Government too accused them of resorting to sabotage in order to discredit the government there.

What is more, police force is being deployed to deal with power plant workers when they launch movements on some legitimate demands. What is of utmost concern for us, is that the government is on the way to set a dangerous precedent in the history of trade union movement in West Bengal by deciding to deploy a 'task-force' at the power units at Santaldih and Bandel. Moreover, the 'Left Front' government has now sacked one and transferred 19 employees belonging to the non-CITU union of Santaldih as punishment for their active participation in movement. We can hardly blame the workers there, if they oppose the government's move out of natural apprehension that it is calculated to break their movement as also a back-door method of gaining control over the existing non-CITU union, for it obviously goes against the interest of the workers. One is bound to be astounded at the crude method when one remembers, that all this is being done under the direct guidance of Mr. Jyoti Basu, who is not only the Chief Minister and the Minister for power, but also the all India vice-president of the CITU! In view of this fact, we cannot reject the idea contained in the complaints of the workers, that, in order to cover up its failures to tackle the power-problem efficiently and to divert public grievances from the same, the government is making the workers the scapegoat. The power-engineers have, in their press conferences pointed out several factors which have a contributing role in causing crisis in power supply. The bourgeois press too have brought to light many such causes of poor power supply. Let us take note of those factors in brief.

Firstly, while the total installed capacity of Santaldih, Bandel, Gouripur, CESC, DVC put together amounts to 1301 MW, the daily demand of West Bengal is 932 MW, but the production average is 744 MW. It is therefore one of the most plausible arguments that the key to the solution of power-problem is inseparably linked up with fullest utilization of power plants according to their installed capacity.

Secondly, frequent breakdown of power plants resulting from recurrent leakage of boilers, consequent upon poor maintenance, bad quality coals used and above all corruption in purchasing below standard machine and machine parts leading to drainage of funds needs a thorough probing. Besides, the working and financial conditions of the WBSEB needs a serious probe by the government.

Thirdly, a serious complaint of the Board's engineers and newspaper reports reveal that tapping—due to electric lines being drawn over long distances to cover village area has contributed largely to shortage of power supply. Such being the fact, the so-called rural electrification scheme to cover a lakh of villages, calls for a thorough redesigning.

Fourthly, investigation has revealed that machines have been supplied by the BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals) to the plants at Santaldih and Bandel, without having undergone proper test and experimentation. Power engineers too have corroborated this fact by attaching great importance to the need for overhauling of machines. Negligence in this respect has given

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PLANNING EXERCISE— PERPETUATION OF PEOPLES' MISERIES

Since the concluding part of the Fifth Five Year Plan has come to an end with intermittent plan holidays, the Sixth Five Year Plan is on the air. And like the preceding Five Year Plans, the Sixth Plan too sets as one of its principal objectives—removal of unemployment and under-employment. Each time a Five Year plan was started, the leaders of the ruling bourgeois parties presented to the people rosy pictures of better future with better material and cultural conditions of life. But in spite of great fanfares, these assurances to the people have ever remained elusive as before; rather, with the completion of each plan their conditions worsened compared to their past.

The people have been assured all the time that the prime objective of the planning was to create many fresh avenues of new employment, providing employment to our youths and reducing the acuteness of the unemployment problem of the country. But the result has been just the reverse. Surely several thousands of persons got new employment during the Plan periods but that was far inadequate compared to actual requirement besides many more thousands having lost their jobs because of chronic stagnation in the economy. All told, unemployment figure instead of being diminished swelled to newer and newer heights.

Whatever the authors of the planning so far would have wanted us to believe, let us take a quick glance on what the planners of the Sixth Five Year Plan have to say. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission is reported to have said that in order to achieve this order of job creation, i.e. 49.26 million in terms of man years, the rate of increase of employment would have to be 5.3% per annum. In the Press release on the Sixth Plan draft, of course, the addition to the total labour force has been estimated at 30 million during the plan period of 1978-83—they say to which 21 million back log of unemployed can be safely added.

Interestingly, although the whole exercise of the planning has been to keep out of view the

estimate of the back-log of unemployed since dismal position of the Fourth Plan, according to unofficial statistics the number of unemployed reached upto 29 million in 1971, which in aggregate, is bound to have doubled in view of addition to labour force over the years since then. It may not be out of place to mention in this context that Government figures taken from Employment Exchanges do not give correct figures. Because due to lack of opportunities all employment seekers, including vast multitude of rural army of unemployed do not register their names with Employment Exchanges. Nor does every unemployed person register his or her name out of frustration at the futility of getting their names registered.

Now let us turn our attention as to how the planners propose to achieve the target of employment potential set down in the Sixth Plan. Curiously enough, an analysis of the sectoral growth target will reveal that most of the industrial investments have been on capital-intensive technology. What was necessary therefore, was to lay due emphasis on the organised manufacturing sector to create employment avenues. Although in the preceding Plans, the planners pinned hopes on the organised manufacturing sectors, with ever deepening crisis of capitalism gripping our economy to complete stagnation and more so,

after the dismal performance in the Fourth Plan, the planners have preferred to keep mum in this respect. That is why, the ruling parties have changed their tactics and started talking of cottage and small-scale industries to cover up this reality of perpetual economic stagnation. This has become necessary on the part of the ruling parties because of the fact that faced with the country-wide, severe industrial crisis, being unable to keep the country's heavy industries running for want of market and in order to hide this objective reality from the people, the Janata Party at the centre as a measure of shrewd fascist device started campaigning in favour of so-called economic decentralisation. The motive behind mouthing this slogan becomes all the more clear from the observation of the Union Home Minister, Mr. Charan Singh. In an interview in the Economic Times dated 19.12.77, he said that by reducing the large factories in the public or private sector to 'very few', we will be saved from this problem of trade unionism and all these industrial labour headaches. "Our greatest asset is cheap labour. We are not able to make use of it owing to trade unionism." The meaning is obvious. On the one hand organised trade union movement can be conveniently throttled and on the other through these so-called smallscale units as the ancillaries of the monopoly houses will be enjoying credit facilities and other bounties of tax concessions etc. and will have clear sway besides having free and savage exploitation of cheap labour power as reflected in Mr. Charan Singh's design.

So, it appears that the different 'Doctors' of this bourgeois economy attending on their ailing patient are now in accus-

ing spree among each other over the wrong prescriptions but none is spelling out what they think the right one. The time-worn Keynesian theory, which was so long supposed to be the panacea has been given a long trial but even the massive public spending programme and tax cut to bolster up home markets on the Keynesian models seems to be of no avail; rather they are generating price spiral. The simple truth is that the capitalist world is not standing where it was before the second world war when it used to enjoy the relative stability of market even in the midst of periodic cycles of crises. By now, the nature of crisis of capitalist system has undergone a qualitative change, which the apologists of the bourgeois economies conveniently try to by-pass.

Not that these bourgeois economists and their client governments do not understand this concrete cause that is at the bottom of the present crisis of the bourgeois world—developed and underdeveloped alike. But to spell out the truth before the people means for them self-denouncement—denunciation of the very bourgeois productive system which is working as the stumbling block to further development and progress, the defence of which, nonetheless, they have made their life's mission.

But the interesting part of development in politics of bourgeois countries to-day which is rocked by serious all-round crisis is the "change in the alignment of forces". Social-democracy under the mask of 'Marxism' has come in open defence of the tottering capitalist order by not only bidding good-bye to the revolutionary kernel of Marxism but by actually preaching and practising the bourgeois devices and Keynesian brand palliatives to deceive the oppressed masses. A case in point is CPI(M)-led 'Left Front' Government's beating of drums for the so-called success of 'Food for Work' Scheme pioneered by the Maharastra State

Government taking cue from the American Aid Programme, or at best an extension of Test Relief Works long in practice in our country. This programme was initially confined to maintenance work during the lean months in the countryside, but has now been expanded to include full or partial payment for employment on a whole range of projects. A spin-off benefit of the scheme is that it solves storage problems at a time when food grains output touches around the mark of 125 million tonnes because of lack of purchasing power of the vast multitude. The Centre has allocated Rs. 200 millions for the schemes and included it in the current year's plan with every likelihood of it being continued beyond 1978-79 period. Already 13 states have adopted this programme. Wonder of wonders, the 'Left Front' Government of West Bengal run under the leadership of the self-styled Marxist CPI(M) has claimed that by this programme it has been able to save the rural poor from the clutches of money-lenders and money lending rich farmers who hold them in bondage. Paschim Banga, the official vernacular organ of the State Government gives the figure of 11,200 tonnes of foodgrains of central allotment for this schemes during 1977. As a matter of fact, this does not touch the fringe of the vast multitude of agricultural labourers and marginal farmers exposed to the risk of starvation.

What is crass hypocrisy on the part of the CPI(M) and its allies is to advertise this palliative as 'achievement' and deceive the poor masses even outbidding the branded bourgeois parties who even dare not make such tall claim of 'silent revolution' or rescuing the poor from the 'clutches of money-lenders' etc. Not only this; the (Left Front Government's another much advertised claim is its unemployment dole of Rs. 50/- to the 15

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CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' MOVEMENT— EMPLOYEES ARE TAKING INITIATIVE TO BUILD UP STRUGGLING LEADERSHIP

A new possibility has opened up today before the Central Government Employees' movement. As a result of the failures of all their movements due to the opportunist reformist leadership opposed to struggle the employees were suffering from utter frustration. But recently, a vast section of the employees have, of their own accord, come forward to organise movements—they are developing new organisation and establishing new leadership in different stages.

The grievance of the employees against the leadership of the 'Confederation', the central body of all the all-India Organisations of the Central Government Employees, is of long standing. Their charge was that under the leadership of the Madhusudan-Vyas-Gupta clique democratic principles and norms and codes were totally absent in the organisation. A few persons of the top leadership together with some of their yes-men formed an unholy coterie who never paid any heed to the opinion of the general employees—in all affairs of the organisation, on all questions they took decisions according to their own sweet will.

As a result of the group squabbles and quarrels over personal leadership interest between Vyas and Madhusudan there was a split in the organisation. This continued for some time but recently the two factions united and mutually divided the key posts among their yes-men.

This clique is not at all concerned over the interest of the general employees—their only concern is their petty group interest and to fulfil that objective they even act as the agents of the government. Their move for split or for unity also are for the fulfilment of this same objective.

For quite some time resentment against such activities of the leaders were growing among the employees. No elections were also held for the last 11 years so that the general employees did not get a scope to establish a militant alternate leadership in the organisation.

Not only that many of the posts of the organisations including the posts of the President and the Secretary are being held by such persons who were not elected by the employees—but they are there holding the position of leadership of the organisation.

In the Delhi branch committee of the 'Confederation' the President and the Secretary who were elected in 1960 are still occupying those positions without holding any further election even after the lapse of 18 years. And if they are not forced by the Central Government Employees to vacate, perhaps they will be clinging to those positions their entire life as the self-styled leaders and will be diverting the movements of the Central Government employees on to the wrong track.

But these leaders are going to lose their sweet sleep now. The employees are now resolved not to tolerate this any more. When the AGCR was decentralised and the employees were attached to different ministries and the Vyas leadership by remaining silent indirectly aided the government's game to weaken the movement, a section of the militant employees opposed this scheme of the government. When the decentralisation was completed immediately before and after the Emergency, the employees in some cases formed new organisations in different departments while in some others established new leadership removing the old one. Not only that combining all the units of the AGCR on all India plane an All India Civil Accounts Federation

under the leadership of Sri Dilip Mukherjee and others has been formed providing struggling leadership as opposed to that led by Vyas leadership. Removing the old leadership of their unit the employees of the Delhi Branch of AGCR have elected Sri P. K. Misra as the new secretary. Apart from this the employees of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases under the Central Health Ministry have formed NMEP/NICD Staff welfare Association with Sri A. K. Mazumder as the secretary. And during the last one and a half year they have already conducted a few powerful movements. The above organisations along with another section of the ministerial employees (Secretariat employees) have taken a new move with whom has joined the Election Commission Employees Union led by Sri B. Prasad.

Thus, the new wave and the militant leadership that has emerged in the Central Government Employees' movement and the way the general employees are coming forward with growing consciousness and consciously participating in all these movements the happy home of the former leadership is going to disintegrate very soon. That is why the former leadership have tried utmost to frustrate these moves of the general employees but failed. The fact that these leaders are more interested in safeguarding the interest of the government than that of the employees has recently come to light once more on the question of payment of arrear Dearness Allowance. Of course, the vigilance of the general employees this time could foil this conspiracy of the former leaders.

On March last, the government took the decision that instead of

paying the whole of the arrear Dearness Allowance to the employees in cash, it would issue government Bonds for the half amount and it was revealed that the JCM leaders almost gave their consent to that decision of the government. When the employees came to know of this treachery of the leaders they burst out in utter indignation against this.

The new leadership of the Central Government employees, took decision of taking effective steps against such a treacherous act of the top leadership and accordingly more than three hundred Central Government employees went in procession at the J. C. M. Staff guide department and demonstrated there. They also handed over a memorandum on behalf of the employees and warned the former leaders against their agreement to the government decision on the question of the Dearness Allowance. The newspapers of Delhi published this news. Noticing this alertness of the general employees the former leaders became shaky—the government also changed its plan. The Finance Minister declared on the floor of the Parliament Government's decision to pay the full amount of the arrear DA in cash. He also inadvertently disclosed the fact about the treachery of the top leaders. It is no doubt a historic event that employees took initiative in their own hands and came forward to build up movements and under pressure of the movement realised their demands—thus frustrated the conspiracy of their former leaders and the government. The employees, of course, are conducting many more struggles under the guidance of this new leadership.

The Central Government employees have formed a Price Hike Resistance

Committee to organise a movement against the rising prices of essential commodities. They have also started a movement against the recent bus-fare rise and the enhanced price of Milk by the Delhi dairy. The employees have also formed a Anti-repression committee in order to resist the oppression and suppression of the government.

On the occasion of May Day the Central Government employees assembled at the Patel Chowk at Delhi and observed the International Working Class Solidarity Day and took pledge to cement the struggling unity of the Central Government employees. Expressing its full support to this struggling spirit of the Central Government employees the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) participated in the May Day procession. The processionists marched to Prime Minister's residence and handed over a memorandum of demands.

This bold initiative of the Central Government employees at Delhi against the petty party sectarianism of a few political parties, their attempt to forcefully keep control of the leadership, their shameless acts as paid agents of the government—has inspired the Central Government employees throughout India. The Central Government employees of different states are welcoming this strong voice of protest and active resistance against the corrupt leadership who reigned so long to the detriment of the interest of the employees.

Haryana Medical Students continue prolonged struggle —AIDSO's unique role

Rohtak (Haryana) 27.5.78 :

Comrade Rajesh Ahlawat, President, Haryana State AIDSO and leader of the Rohtak Medical College students in a report issued from the Rohtak Medical College Campus states that the almost two month's old medical students' movement of Haryana after passing its second phase of struggle, has reached a new dimension facing brutal repression by the Devilal Ministry of the 'Janata' Government in Haryana.

All the students of the Rohtak Medical College, the only medical college in the Haryana State, launched a strike struggle from 13th April last joined by the staff nurses, the student nurses and the junior doctors in protest against the arbitrary and undemocratic suspension of Dr. K. N. Garg the Director Principal of the medical college by Sri Hardwarilal, the Vice-chancellor of Dayanand University, Rohtak—because Dr. Garg opposed the corrupt and arbitrary

actions of the Vice-chancellor. (It may be mentioned here, that this gentleman had been an MLA of the Janata Party and after he turned a dissident and was causing difficulties he was won over by the chief-minister by giving him the post of V.C. of the University).

On 12th, the day of suspension, the medical students organised a demonstration against such high handed, arbitrary action of the V. C. and went in deputation to meet him but were refused. What is more, he let loose his paid goondas and called in the police to brutally assault the demonstrating students. So, the medical students went on strike from 13th April.

The striking medical students once again organised a procession and went to the University campus to submit a charter of demand before the V.C. They were once again mercilessly beaten up by the hired goondas and the police at the instance of the V.C. The female

students also were not spared. Twentyfive medical students including five female students were seriously injured and had to be admitted in the hospital, many among whom are members of AIDSO.

The following are a few of the demands of the striking medical students :

(1) Removal of the Vice-chancellor ;

(2) Autonomy of the Medical College ;

(3) Judicial enquiry into the corruption and misdeeds of the University administration ;

(4) Withdrawal of suspension of the Director-Principal of the Medical College ;

(5) Enquiry into the whole of the recent incidents.

The Medical College unit of AIDSO and the Haryana state AIDSO have taken the leading role in this movement.

The second phase of the movement began with a silent procession of the Medical College students

that paraded the streets of Rohtak city defying 144 Cr. P. C. which was unique in its nature and drew the sympathy and moral support of the people of the town. The movement was stepped up with "Jail Bharo Andolon" (Fill up the Jails) in which under the leadership of Comrade Pyarelal, member of the AIDSO and a student leader of the Medical College, hundreds of medical students participated and courted arrest. Noticing the determination of the students and the growing public opinion in support of the medical students, the Haryana State Janata Party Government in their cunning manoeuvre to throw cold water on the movement declared the institution of a subcommittee "to look into the affairs of the medical students". So, the medical students decided to continue their movement and on 20th May went on fast until death. The Health Minister of Haryana intervened and assured the students that their

demands would be fulfilled. But when even after seven days nothing was done and the promise of the Health Minister was proved to be false the medical students started a Mass Hunger Strike from 27th May. In the first batch of five who went on fast are included Comrades Pyarelal and Ved Paul Mahla, members of AIDSO.

In view of the growing intensity of the movement as well as the ever growing influence of the AIDSO over not only the medical students but on the entire student community of Haryana as well, a section of the Janata Party supporters wanted to divert the movement and raised a new slogan of separation of the Medical College from the administrative control of the University and taking over of the Medical College by the Government.

The AIDSO strongly opposed this and laid the correct line and direction by adding to the demands, five of which we mentioned above, democratisation of the University administration

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Defying police atrocities Vanivihar University (Orissa) Students' Movement marches ahead

Bhubaneswar :

The students of Vanivihar University and Ravenshaw College are on strike since 26th April, demanding abolition of Semester Examination system from post graduate classes and shifting of the date of master's degree examination to November.

In absence of adequate facilities like hostel accommodation, library, stipends, scholarship, and overburdened by the unscientific syllabus, the students have been agitating against the introduction of semester since the beginning of current session. But the authorities were totally callous to the grievances of the students. Further, the final post-graduate examinations have been scheduled to commence from 31st July and continue till 15th September whereas the All India competitive exa-

minations will start from 25th September. In view of the participation of majority of the PG students in these All India competitive examinations as well as the extremely short gap between the two examinations the students are demanding postponement of the post graduate examinations till November.

As soon as the strike was declared by the students on 26th April, the Vice-chancellor of the university closed it sine die, brought a huge force of armed police into the university campus and asked the students to vacate the hostel. The hostel being closed, students have been forced to starve. In protest against these, some students started hunger strike till death, as a result of which the condition of seven students became

serious. But inspite of all these, the students stood firm in their legitimate movement and refused to bow down before the autocratic authority of the university.

In support of the movement, the DSO called for a continuous strike in the Ravenshaw College and organised within the college campus a protest procession of PG students and when the students of Vanivihar University joined with them a big and combined procession of the Vanivihar University and Ravenshaw College staged a big demonstration before the residence of the V. C. A delegation of seven students including the President and Vice-president of the Vanivihar University Students' Union, went to meet the Chief Minister and Education Minister. But they were arrested by

the police on their way. The students continued their demonstration throughout the whole night. On the next day, early in the morning a battallion of armed police appeared on the spot and forcibly evacuated the hostels, during which many students, including the girl students were assaulted. But the students then led a big procession through the streets to submit a memorandum protesting against this police assault and the arrest of the student representatives. But again they were halted midway by the police and about a thousand students were arrested. Since then a stalemate is reigning in the University.

This movement has revealed in bold relief the treacherous role of the students organisations like ABVP, SFI, etc., and

the pro-student role of the DSO. The ABVP took an open anti-student role and engaged themselves in a rabid attempt to disrupt the movement. They were of course paid back their dues by the fighting students. The general secretary of the University students' union, Mr Laxmi Narayan Mohapatra, a state leader of the ABVP in Orissa was forced by the general body of the union to resign from his post, as an award of his opposition to the students' strike. The other students organisations like SFI, AISF, Chhatra Janata, Chhatra Congress etc. are paying lip service in support of the strike. In a joint meeting of these students organisations held in DSO office on 2nd May, they expressed their support in favour of the semester system while confining their stand to mere verbal

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Power Crisis

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rise to recurrent breakdowns of the machines.

Fifthly, engineers are dissatisfied with administrative affairs, as well. Schemes suggested to the government, in the previous years for phased recruitment of technical personnels, have not been materialised. It is also a fact that petty party interest has guided the governments' recruitment policy.

In view of the complexities of the problems as also the vicious chain which is at the root of them it is obvious that whatever steps the 'left-front' government has so far taken amounts to nothing but temporary palliatives. It also leaves the whole question to a chosen bureaucrat and avoids the real issue. It was required of a responsible government, let alone a left government, to approach it from a truly pro-people angularity. However, the contrary seems to be true of the 'left front' government led by Mr. Jyoti Basu. The entire approach of the latter is highly bureaucratic in nature. The workers have not only been kept out of confidence, but, their positive suggestions for even minor reforms, have been rejected. The government has gone so far as to give shameless utterance of blames to the workers. Armed police force has been sent to 'teach a lesson' to the workers who are on justified movements, just like any autocratic forces. Not only this shamelessness but the Chief Minister who is one of CITU's top leaders boasted that "firmness pays" where upon the Statesman showers praise. The industrialists are taking advantage of the power crisis and passing it on to the workers who in thousands suffer retrenchment and wagecuts. Yet, the 'left-front' government, has done nothing to defend the interest of the victimised workers and stands as silent onlooker as if it

has nothing to do in this regard. Indeed this government outbids the previous Congress government in slavish defence to bourgeois interest. The UTUC (Lenin Sarani) has urged upon the government to make a serious attempt to end the corrupt practices and to plug the innumerable loopholes instead of making the workers responsible for all the evils.

In conclusion, we would call upon the common people to be alert about the motive behind all the steps and attitude, the 'Left Front' Government adopts in meeting a pressing problem like power supply. It is not only following the old policy of relying on the bureaucracy in finding the solution of a problem that vitally affects all sections of common people but in reality is shielding the vicious chain of bureaucracy, contractors, business men and corrupt politicians. Recently, there was uproar in the assembly when it came to light that CPI(M) whose leaders are so much vociferous against Indira Gandhi and her caucus had no qualms to oblige Kamalnath, a notorious figure with a big contract to supply machines to WBSEB and that too, it is alleged, without the minimum formality of inviting tenders. The government is still silent on the issue and has not cleared public suspicion. Then again, the government is all along interceding with the Central Government for approval to the British firm CESC for enhancing installed capacity as also for importing gas turbines. But whole attack of the government is against the workers, as if, they are the main enemy. And this is a government that claims to be a 'peoples' government! Surely nobody can accuse them of one thing—that they lack in unbound capacity of double talks and deceitful conducts. Not for nothing the bourgeoisie and their different chambers of commerce are showering praises for the Chief Minister and his government. But common people from their bare experiences

Police arrest DSO deputationists to the Prime Minister in Vanivihar University, Orissa

Bhubaneswar—On the 8th April last Mr. Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister came to the Vanivihar University, Orissa on the occasion of its convocation programme. The Orissa State Committee of DSO organised a deputation to submit a memorandum bearing the signatures of thousands of students—demanding introduction of 10+2+2 years' course, instead of 10+2+3, adoption of bilingual policy instead of tri-lingual formula, more UGC fund for Orissa, establishment of a new University in North Orissa, scrapping the semester system of examination and internal assessment through semester etc.

Students from Ravenshaw College, poet Virkishore College, Bhadrak College, Balasore College and many other schools and colleges, rallied round the banner of DSO. The students of Berhampur Medical College also joined the rally in order to register their protest against the forcible suppression of a strike they organised to achieve their legitimate demands.

But the police obstructed them from entering into the campus of the university, encircled them in a cordon and continuously illtreated and abused them. The students raised voices of protest, but the Prime Ministers, who talks of restoration of democracy

did not think it necessary to give a hearing to the student deputationists. When the students pressed for the submission of their memorandum, the police arrested 34 student leaders, including Comrade Chitta Behera, secretary.

Janata Government is boasting of restoring democracy. But the way they are crushing the legitimate movements and the way the Prime Minister himself behaved with the students who came to acquaint him with their grievances—indicate without any shade of confusion—what sort of democracy they are restoring.

Haryana Medical Students Continue Struggles

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and not taking over of the Medical College by the Government and inclusion of representatives of students, teachers and employees in all the decision making bodies of the University administration.

This struggle of the medical students, unprecedented in Haryana has drawn the widest support of the students throughout the state. It is to be noted here that the entire state of Haryana is now under 144 Cr. P. C. and public meetings and

processions are banned.

In a statement issued to the press on 12th May, Comrade K. S. Lamba, Secretary AIDS O Haryana State Committee expressed the full support of AIDS O to the strike struggle of the Medical College students and opposed the move for the take-over of the Rohtak Medical College by the Government. He further stated that the administration of the Medical College and Hospital as well as the state of affairs in the M. D. University, Rohtak as a whole are no doubt in a mess. But the take

over of the Medical College and Hospital by the Government is not a solution to the problem, rather such a step would be undemocratic and retrograde. The solution of the problem of this institution is in the democratisation of the University administration—and this is a demand which had all through been highlighted by the AIDS O.

Comrade Lamba on behalf of the Haryana State AIDS O also submitted a memorandum on the above demands to the Government of Haryana.

Vanivihar University Students' Movement

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condemnation of the police action.

It is the DSO alone which is supporting all the legitimate demands of the students and therefore striving all its best to direct the movement in a correct line to success. Comrade Chittaranjan Behera and Comrade Naba Krishore Raut, Secretary and Vice-president of the Orissa state council, DSO are present by the students of Vanivihar University

are having a different assessment about this government and its redoubtable Chief Minister.

to guide them. Orissa state council, DSO appealed to the students of Orissa in a leaflet to form action committees and come forward in support of this movement. A special bulletin of the 'Sarbahara', the monthly Oriya organ of the State Committee of SUCI highlighting the students' strike, has been brought out and consumed in thousands by the students and masses of all parts of Orissa at large. DSO leaders, Comrade Rudraprasad Mohanty and Yudhisthir Khatua, acting Secretary, Ravenshaw College Union are playing leading role in conducting

movement in the college. Comrade Purna Chandra Mishra, acting President, Dhenkanal College Union is moving in different colleges to mobilise the students behind this movement. Public meetings have been held in Bhadrak, Sambalpur, Balasore and Cuttack and other parts of the state. The student community of Orissa are responding to the call of DSO with as much enthusiasm as their indignation against the Janata Government of the state and the different student organisations like ABVP, Chhatra Janata, SFI etc. is growing.

SUCI Demands Non-Official Enquiry to Reveal the Truth

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Such was the nature of the much-trumpeted 'political struggle' of the CPI(M) which enabled it to achieve this 'resounding victory'. The very fact that the CPI(M)-leadership had to take recourse to such utter corruption and various methods of rigging, proves beyond doubt that the support of the rural poor, namely, agricultural labourers, share-croppers, poor peasants and those belonging to middle class, was certainly not in favour of CPI(M) on account of its totally non-left and pro-jotedar, pro-industrialist policies. Had the support been there, the CPI(M) leadership would not have found it necessary to make such elaborate arrangements for rigging in its crudest form. In fact, people's opinion this time was decidedly against both the Congress and the CPI(M), and wherever we put up our candidates, support of the poor people in general was in our favour.

It must also be mentioned in this connection that constituent parties of the 'Left Front' contended with each other *enmasse* against the official candidates of the CPI(M), the way in which the CPI(M) sought to discipline its partners of the 'Left Front' the disgruntled candidates of its own party and the unscrupulous manner in which it nominated notorious Congress-jotedars and anti-socials as its party candidates, not only reveal the bureaucratic and authoritarian attitude of the CPI(M) leadership, but also the brazenly non-left, opportunist and worst kind of petty-bourgeois character of the 'Left Front' and the CPI(M) in particular.

In its bid to corner and stamp us out, the CPI(M) deployed its full strength, this time too, as it had done during the last Parliamentary and Assembly Elections. They employed the entire administration, along with the police, and the propaganda media for this purpose. Apart from taking recourse to massive rigging and rank corruptions, they deprived us most undemocratically and illegitimately of the right we had been enjoying as a registered party in the last general elections to fight with one symbol from among the free symbols. And thus they pushed us into a position even worse than that of the independents where we were forced to fight with different symbols not only for different tiers, but also for the same tier at the same constituency. Still worse, they went even so far as to change symbols in some places in a most illegal manner after these were duly allotted to us. Besides, in our constituencies, they entered into open or clandestine alliances with all other forces including the Congress (I). Even in the face of all these odds and conspiracies, **we could win 728 seats in the Gram-panchayats, 125 in the Panchayat-samities, and 8 in the Zilla Parishad.** Besides, in all the three tiers we lost many seats by very narrow margins. This result does not measure up to the support the Party actually enjoys in the rural areas. The result would have definitely been otherwise had not the polling been vitiated by unfairness in the allotment of symbols, and widespread corrupt practices and rigging resorted to

By advertising a bourgeois palliative as radical measure, CPI(M) has come in open defence of crisis-ridden capitalism in its treacherous role to people's cause

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lakhs of unemployed whose names have been in the live register of Exchanges for five years and having family income within Rs. 500/- per month. For this the government will have to spend Rs. 9.00 crores a year which it proposes to meet out of increased taxation of Rs. 62'00 crores imposed on the common people through two successive budgets within a year. This is a novel method of robbing Peter to pay him part of it! Indeed these 'Marxists' can teach their 'friends' at the centre in this game of deception.

As an inevitable outcome of the rank opportunism they are using the palliative measures as a cover to win over the

by the CPI(M)-leadership with the help of practically the whole of the administrative machinery. No amount of manoeuvring could conceal the fact of increasing support of the toiling people to the correct base political line of our party. We extend our revolutionary greetings to the toiling rural people for the way they resolutely stood up to the challenge.

We demand of the Government to institute a non-official enquiry Committee to inquire into and reveal the truth. We call upon the people, at the same time, to build up and strengthen People's Committees in the villages as also to carry forward their struggle for realising legitimate democratic demands by defeating the CPI(M)'s conspiracy of pursuing a pro-jotedar, pro-vested interest policies for putting serious hindrance to class-struggles by running the Panchayat Institutions in a gross undemocratic, partisan and bureaucratic manner.

youths and the poor masses to the vortex of their filthy and petty party interests. From the bare experience as also from the reports almost daily pouring in the daily press, and as a matter of fact the CPI(M) leaders too are making no secrets about it, it has become as clear as daylight to any one that the criterion of getting the benefits of either of the 'Food for work' or 'Unemployment dole' programmes is to earn the favour of the major ruling party of the 'Left Front'. The matter does not end there; it went still much lower into 'depths' as to corrupting the administration most unethically in setting one section of oppressed masses against another over these crumbs. This is a criminal conspiracy in as much as it drives wedge in the unity and cohesion of the working people and does incalculable harm to the possibility of building up mighty democratic mass movements against the oppressive rules of capital,

which is the villain of the piece. This no doubt is the positive disservice of the CPI(M) led 'Left Front' Government to the cause of Left and democratic mass movement of the country. The toiling people, in order to come out of the trap laid by the henchmen of the capitalist exploitation, must ponder dispassionately about these heinous methods of CPI(M) so that they may be able to direct as also orient their struggle on to a right course the aim and objective of which cannot be other than to guard and consolidate the unity and cohesion of the exploited people against the united assault of the ruling capitalist class whose main motive is to destroy this very unity of the exploited. The sooner the people and the country can get rid of this compromising political party and forces between labour and capital busy in collecting spoils of sordid parliamentary politics by hiding the class reality in our society, the better for their future.

AIDSO's Appeal to Students

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taught us that even for partial movements be it the movement of the students or of any other section of the toiling people the essential things are a clear perspective before the movement as also a correct leadership. Mere legitimacy or the correctness of the demands, the devotion and sacrifices of those in the movement will not do. Urge for change—yes, it is the first thing but it cannot be blind. Armed and inspired with these thoughts and teachings of such a great leader of the proletariat it is the AIDSO which extends its hands of fraternal sympathy

for and full-fledged co-operation with your just cause with the clarion call: Don't stoop to injustice, put organised and conscious offensive with a clear perspective and establish the correct revolutionary leadership over the movement. Remember if the movement be built up in such a direction, no brow-beating, no threat and intimidation, not even the coercive means can suppress the movements of the people; for, it is the vast masses of oppressed section of the society and not the irresponsible exploiting rulers, tell the last word in history.

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